1. (Amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:

    retrieving said word to be checked from said document;

    selecting a set of filter words in one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document;

    determining whether said word [has been inadvertently included in said document and] has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) [has been] is designated as potentially inappropriate in said set of filter words for communication to said intended recipient [use in said document].

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further including a step of designating said set of filter words [that have a meaning that is potentially inappropriate] by changing a value of a filter status field for [such] words in [an electronic dictionary] said one or more electronic dictionaries.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the filter status field for each of the words can have one of N values, where N > 2, and where N designates whether each of said words is offensive or potentially inappropriate.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [those words that have a potentially inappropriate meaning] said set of filter words can be [identified] selected without input from an author of the document [a user of such electronic dictionary].

5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein an identification of said set of filter words [potentially inappropriate words] can take place at or about the time said one or more electronic dictionaries are [the electronic dictionary is] first generated.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [6] 3, further including a step of permitting a user to [change the value of the status flag for such] remove said word from said set of filter words.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [7] 8, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word is in said set of filter words [has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in a text document].

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a list of documents is checked, and a list of [potentially inappropriate] words in such documents that are in said set of filter words is generated.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more electronic dictionaries for a first audience, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more electronic dictionaries for a a second audience, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further including a step of specifying a threshold value which the filter status field must exceed in order for said word to be identified as belonging to said set of filter words [potentially inappropriate].

14. (Amended) A method of permitting [a user] <u>an author of an electronic document</u> to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in [an electronic] <u>such</u> document comprising the steps of:

    [a] retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and

    [b] determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and

    [c] when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said [user] <u>author</u> to select a first replacement word for said word; and

    [d] determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has <u>a designation</u> [been designated] as <u>offensive and/or</u> potentially inappropriate for use in a text document, <u>said designation being modifiable by the author;</u> and

    [e] when said word has been designated as <u>offensive and/or</u> potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said [user] <u>author</u> as replacements for said word, and permitting said [user] <u>author</u> to select a second replacement word for said word.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further including a step (f): permitting said [user] <u>author</u> to select said word, the first replacement word, or the second replacement word.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further including a step (f): repeating steps [d] and [e] as necessary so that a word is selected that is not designated as potentially inappropriate, or said [user] <u>author</u> is permitted to select a word by manual override.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further including a step of identifying those words that have a meaning that is <u>offensive and/or</u> potentially inappropriate by changing a value of a status field for such words in an electronic dictionary.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein those words that have <u>and offensive and/</u>or a potentially inappropriate meaning can be identified <u>initially</u> without input from a user of such electronic dictionary.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein an identification of potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is potentially inappropriate.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further including a step of permitting [a user] <u>an author</u> to change the value of the status flag for such word.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by [a user] <u>the author</u>.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context <u>identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file for a first audience</u>, and a second meaning in a second context <u>identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file for a second audience</u>, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts <u>by examining said first and second ratings</u>.

24. (Amended) A method of word checking an electronic document generated by a word processing program under control of a user of said program, said method comprising the steps of:

storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table [containing] identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in said document;

monitoring interaction between said user and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;

locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and

modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the user, so that the user can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the table includes information pertaining to the location in said document of any words that are determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said word filter electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said word filter electronic dictionary, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 24, further including a step of permitting a user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

29. (Amended) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by a user [of a word processing program], comprising the steps of:

allowing the user to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and

monitoring data input by [said] the user during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and

determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and

when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting [said] the user; and

wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to [said] the user [with substantially minimal delay after the data input period for the word] while the user is still entering said text content of the document.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said result is communicated before [said] the user has completed data input during a subsequent data input period intended for a subsequent word to be included in said document.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein when the word is determined to be potentially inappropriate [said] the user is precluded from inputting additional words in said document until corrective action has been taken for such word.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed, and wherein the result of this spelling check is communicated to [said] the user while said user is still entering said text content of the document [with substantially minimal delay after the data input period for the word].

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a [one of the] substitute word[s] is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether [the] said substitute[d] word has a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document by comparing said substitute word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 29, further including a step of permitting [a] the user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as potentially inappropriate.

36. (Amended) A method of generating an electronic version of a <u>language filter</u> dictionary comprising the steps of:

    inputting data in electronic form to create a set of words in computer readable form for [said] <u>the</u> dictionary; and

    <u>providing a first dictionary, which first dictionary is a first part of the language filter dictionary, for identifying each word in said set of words that has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in communications with a first group of persons;</u>

    providing a <u>second dictionary, which second dictionary is a second part of the language filter dictionary,</u> [status field associated for each of such words, which status field indicates whether such word] <u>for identifying each word in said set of words that</u> has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in [an electronic document] <u>communications with a second group of persons.</u>

37. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the <u>first and second dictionaries</u> [status field is] <u>are</u> modifiable <u>by an author of an electronic document using the language filter dictionary to check said document</u>[, and further including a step of modifying the status field in accordance with the meaning of its associated word].

38. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein [the] <u>said first and second dictionaries include</u> status fields <u>for each word contained therein and which</u> can be modified to have any one of N possible values, where N >=2, and where N corresponds to a degree of potential inappropriateness for a word associated with such status field, <u>such that extremely offensive words are rated with a status field value that is higher than less offensive words.</u>

39. (Amended) The method of claim 36, [wherein each status field is associated with the meaning of such word in a first context, and] including a further step of providing at least one additional [status field] <u>dictionary</u> for indicating whether such word has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in <u>with a third group of persons</u> [a second context].

40. (Amended) An electronic system for permitting a user to [check the meaning of words] control which words are allowed in an electronic document, said system including:

a system memory for storing a word checking software module;

a processing device for executing the word checking software module;

an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:

(i) retrieving [said] words to be checked from [said] the document;

(ii) determining whether said words from the document [has been inadvertently included in said document and has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in said document] include any from said set of filter words.

41. (Amended) The system of claim 40, [further including an electronic dictionary for storing said words, and] wherein the word checking software module designates [words that have a meaning that is potentially inappropriate] said set of filter words by changing a value of a status field for such words in said electronic dictionary.

42. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the status field for each of the words in said electronic dictionary can have one of N values, where N > 2.

43. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein [those words that have a potentially inappropriate meaning] said set of filter words can be identified without input from said user.

44. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein an identification of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.

45. (Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating an alert indicating that a [such] word in the document is [potentially inappropriate] in said set of filter words.

46. (Amended) The system of claim [45] 41, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of permitting said user to change the value of the status flag for [such] words in said electronic dictionary.

47. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of [said] words.

48. (Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event any [such] word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word includes any word from said set of filter words [has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in a text document].

49. (Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of [potentially inappropriate] words in such documents that are in said set of filter words.

50. (Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein said words [is] are checked substantially immediate in time after they are [it is] input into said document by a user.

51. (Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

52. (Amended) The system of claim [40] 41, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which the status field must exceed in order for [said] words to be identified as [potentially inappropriate] part of said set of filter words.

53. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronic dictionary including a set of words and a [an] plurality of associated status fields for [each of the] said set of words, each status field identifying an appropriateness rating for a particular audience for individual words in said set of words, such that an individual word can have a plurality of appropriateness ratings [for indicating a level of potential inappropriateness for such word when used in an electronic text document];

a word checking routine executable by a computing device and for checking whether words in [the] an electronic text document [are inadvertently] should be included in a communication to a particular audience, and which routine is configured to perform the following operations:

[a] retrieving a word to be word checked from [an] said electronic text document; and

[b] accessing the electronic dictionary to determine whether the [level of potential inappropriateness] appropriateness rating of [such] said word identified in a status field for said particular audience exceeds a threshold value specified for such document; and

wherein the electronic dictionary and word checking routine are embodied in a computer readable media.

54. (Original) The article of claim 53, further including a spell checking routine for determining whether such word has been spelled correctly.

55. (Amended) The article of claim 54, wherein the spell checking routine also presents a first list of alternative words as replacements for [the] said word when it is mis-spelled, and permits a first replacement word to be substituted for [the] said word.

56. (Amended) The article of claim 55, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to determine whether [the meaning of the] said replacement word has an appropriateness rating that exceeds [the] said threshold value for such document.

57. (Amended) The article of claim 53, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to permit a user of the routine to change the appropriateness rating value of a status field for [any] words in [the] said electronic dictionary.

58. (Amended) The article of claim 53, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to check words substantially immediate in time after they are input into [the] <u>said electronic</u> document by a user.

Please cancel claim 59.

60. (Original) The article of claim 53, wherein the computer readable media includes any of the following: a floppy disk, a hard disk, a CD-ROM, a magnetic tape, or a non-volatile semiconductor memory.

61. (Amended) A system for permitting a user to check the meaning of words in an electronic document, said system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module, such module being incorporated as part of a word processing program that can be executed by a computer processing device;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i) retrieving said words to be checked from said document;

(ii) determining whether said word is inadvertently included and has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in said document; and

(iii) alerting a user to the presence of said word when it is designated as potentially inappropriate; and

(iv) allowing a user to modify said word in said document when it is designated as potentially inappropriate before transmitting said document to a third party; and

(v) allowing a user of said word checking sofware module to specify a rating value for a word to be used in determining whether such word is potentially inappropriate.

62. (Amended) The system of claim 61, further including an electronic dictionary for storing said words, and wherein the word checking software module designates words that have a meaning that is potentially inappropriate by changing [a] said rating value [of] in a status field for such words.

63. (Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein [the] said status field for each of the words can have one of N rating values, where N > 2.

Please cancel claims 64 – 65.

66. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of said words.

67. (Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in [a text] said document.

68. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of potentially inappropriate words in such documents.

69. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.

70. (Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first electronic dictionary file, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second electronic dictionary file, and wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

71. (Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which [the status field] said rating value must exceed in order for said word to be identified as potentially inappropriate.

72. (Amended) An electronic dictionary embodied in computer readable form for use in a word processing program, said dictionary including:

a set of words represented in computer readable form;

a first electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and being used for identifying any word in said set of words that is offensive; and

a second electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and being used for identifying any word in said set of words [status field associated for each of such words, which status field facilitates a determination of whether such word, when inadvertently included in an electronic document, has a meaning] that is potentially inappropriate for use in communications with a particular group of persons [such document].

73. (Amended) The dictionary of claim 72, wherein the first and second electronic dictionaries [status field is] are modifiable by an author of an electronic document using the dictionary to check said document.

74. (Amended) The dictionary of claim 73, wherein the first and second electronic dictionaries each have a status field which has one of N possible values, where N > 2, and where N corresponds to a degree of potential inappropriateness for a word associated with such status field.

75. (Amended) The dictionary of claim 73, [wherein each status field is associated with the meaning of such word in a first context, and] including at least [one additional status field for indicating whether such] a third electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and identifying any word that has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use [in a second context] with a second group of persons.

76. (Amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:

    retrieving said word to be checked from [said] the document;

    determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to persons intended to read such [text] document; and determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said persons, based in part on considering an identity of said persons.

77. (Amended) The method of claim 76, further including a step of configuring said first and second language filters by [designating words that have a meaning that is likely to be offensive by] changing a value of one or more [a] status fields for such words in an electronic dictionary.

78. (Amended) The method of claim 77, wherein said [the] status fields for each of the words can have one of N values, where N >2.

79. (Amended) The method of claim 76, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is [likely to be offensive] within said first and/or second electronic language filter.

80. (Original) The method of claim 76, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.

81. (Original) The method of claim 80, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is likely to be offensive.

82. (Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said word is checked by said first and second language filters substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.

Please add the following new claims 83 - 140:

83.   (Newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more electronic dictionaries correspond to one or more customized sets of filter words, each of said customized sets of filter words being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for a different intended recipient.

84.   (Newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein a first electronic dictionary in said one or more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is offensive, and a second electronic dictionary in said one more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is potentially inappropriate for said intended recipient, said second electronic dictionary being customized to include words that may cause embarassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the document to said intended recipient.

85.   (Newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein a first electronic dictionary in said one or more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is offensive, and a plurality of second electronic dictionaries in said one or more electronic dictionaries are checked to determine if said word is potentially inappropriate for a plurality of intended recipients, said plurality of second electronic dictionaries being individually customized to include words that may cause embarassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the document to said plurality of recipients.

86.   (Newly added) The method of claim 84, wherein said sets of filter words are based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient.

87.   (Newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein said document includes an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

88.   (Newly added) The method of claim 14, wherein said word is designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said text document.

89.   (Newly added) The method of claim 29, wherein said words are designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said document.

90.   (Newly added) The method of claim 29, wherein said document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

91.   (Newly added) The system of claim 41, wherein said filter words are based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said document.

92.   (Newly added) The system of claim 41, wherein the document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

93.   (Newly added) A method of checking content of an electronic document comprising the steps of:

(a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content, said language filter being based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document; and

(b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document; and

(c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document.

94.   (Newly added) The method of claim 93, wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate.

95.   (Newly added) The method of claim 94, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.

96.   (Newly added) The method of claim 95, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

97. (Newly added) A system for checking content of an electronic document comprising:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a language filter, which language filters is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i) Specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document;

(ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;

(iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document.

98. (Newly added) The system of claim 97, wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate.

99. (Newly added) The system of claim 98, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.

100. (Newly added) The system of claim 99, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

101. (Newly added) A method of controlling distribution of an electronic document to prevent dissemination of embarassing and/or harmful content in such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and

   b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient; and

   c) inspecting the document electronically before it is distributed to said intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document.

102.   (Newly added) The method of claim 101, further including a step: (d) replacing any offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in the document as part of said corrective action.

103.   (Newly added) The method of claim 101, wherein a status field rating for said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words are set up by an author of the electronic document as part of an electronic language filter.

104.   (Newly added) The method of claim 103, wherein an author of the electronic document also sets a threshold value which must be exceeded by said status field rating in order for a word to be considered as one of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

105. (Newly added) A method of controlling language content of an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a) defining a word as offensive by specifying a first rating value for a first status field associated with said word in an electronic dictionary; and

    (b) defining a word as potentially inappropriate for communication with an intended recipient of the electronic document by specifying a second rating value for a second status field associated with said word in said electronic dictionary, said second rating value being based in part on a consideration of a gender, language use and/or ethnicity of said particular recipient; and

    (c) entering text words for the language content of the electronic document; and

    (d) selecting whether said first status field and/or said second status field in said electronic dictionary should be used for examining said text words; and

    (e) reviewing the text words in accordance with step (d) to determine if any context restricted words are contained in the electronic document, said context restricted words including text words that are offensive and/or potentially inappropriate as defined in steps (a) and (b); and

    (f) identifying any context restricted words in the electronic document before such document is transmitted to said intended recipient so that said context restricted words can be modified or eliminated.

106. (Newly added) The method of claim 105 wherein steps (a) and (b) are controllable by an author of the electronic document to customize a set of offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

107. (Newly added) The method of claim 105 further including a step (b)': defining a word as potentially inappropriate for communication with a second intended recipient of the electronic document by specifying a third rating value for a third status field associated with said word in said electronic dictionary, said third rating value being based on a consideration of a gender, language use and/or ethnicity of said second intended recipient.

108.   (Newly added) The method of claim 105, further including a step of providing a threshold value which said first and/or second rating value must exceed before a word is identified as a context restricted word.

109.   (Newly added) A system for checking the word content of an electronic document, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

an electronic dictionary for storing dictionary words that can be used in the electronic document, said electronic dictionary being set up such that one or more status fields can be associated with such dictionary words, said status fields containing a rating for an offensiveness and/or inappropriateness of such dictionary word for a corresponding audience;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

  (i)   selecting one or more language filters based on identifying which of said one or more status fields for said electronic dictionary words is/are to be used for checking words in the document;

  (ii)   using said one or more language filters to check words used in the document against corresponding dictionary words by examining said rating in said status field(s);

  (iii) generating an alert when said one or more language filters detects a word that has a rating that indicates it is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience;

wherein the electronic document can be controlled to only include words that do not have a rating that indicates that such word is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience.

110. (Newly added) The system of claim 109 wherein a rating in all of said status fields for a dictionary word are examined.

111. (Newly added) The system of claim 109 wherein said word checking software indicates which of said one or more language filters has detected a word that has a rating indicating that it is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience.

112. (Newly added) The system of claim 109 wherein said rating can be varied to have a value from a scale of 1 to N, and where a higher value indicates a higher level of offensiveness of such word for said corresponding audience.

113. (Newly added) The system of claim 112 wherein a threshold value can be specified for determining when an alert should be generated, based on comparing said rating in said status field to said threshold value.

114. (Newly added) The system of claim 109 wherein an author of said electronic document can control which language filters are used for checking said document.

115. (Newly added) A method of checking content of an electronic document comprising the steps of:

    (a) configuring a language filter to be used for inspecting content of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate text, said language filter being configured based in part on an identity of intended recipients of the electronic document; and

    (b) detecting whether said electronic document includes words specified within said language filter; and

    (c) generating an output indicating the presence of any words detected during step (b); wherein said language filter can be adjusted during step (a) as needed according to said identity of said intended recipients.

116. (Newly added) The method of claim 115 further including a step of setting up said language filter by specifying a first language filter intended for a first audience for the electronic document, and a second language filter intended for a second audience for the electronic document, each of said first and second language filters containing words that are potentially inappropriate for use with said first and second audiences respectively.

117. (Newly added) The method of claim 116, wherein during step (a) said language filter is configured by setting status field values for words within either or both of said first and/or second language filters.

118. (Newly added) A method of checking content of an electronic document comprising the steps of:

  (a) retrieving a word from the electronic document;

  (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

  wherein a decision to disseminate the electronic document is based on a result of step (b).

119. (Newly added) The method of claim 118 further including a step prior to (a) of: setting up said first and/or second language filters as part of an electronic dictionary having one or more customized electronic dictionaries containing words corresponding to said first and second language filters.

120. (Newly added) The method of claim 119 wherein said first language filter includes words that are offensive and/or obscene.

121. (Newly added) The method of claim 120 wherein said second language filter includes words that may cause embarassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the electronic document.

122. (Newly added) The method of claim 118 wherein when said word is included within either of said first language filter and/or second language filter, an indication of which of said first language filter and/or second language filters was triggered is provided.

123.(Newly added) A system for checking content of an electronic document including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a configurable language filter, which language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i)   configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;

(ii)   using said configurable language filter to check words used in the document;

(iii)   generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;

wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience.

124. (Newly added) The system of claim 123, wherein said configurable language filter includes a first language filter and a second language filter as part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

125. (Newly added) The system of claim 123, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarassment by their inclusion in the document.

126.(Newly added) A system for checking content of an electronic document including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i)   selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for checking words in the document based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;

(ii)   using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in the document;

(iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;

wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended audience.

127. (Newly added) The system of claim 126, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

128. (Newly added) The system of claim 127, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarassment by their inclusion in the document.

129. (Newly added) A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

    (a) retrieving a word from a first electronic document; and

    (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and

    (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter; and

    (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said first electronic document are inspected; and

    (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document.

130. (Newly added) The method of claim 129, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

131. (Newly added) The method of claim 129, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarassment by their inclusion in the document.

132. (Newly added) A system for checking content of electronic documents including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic documents such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;

(ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic documents;

(iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;

wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons.

133. (Newly added) The system of claim 132, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

134. (Newly added) The system of claim 132, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarassment by their inclusion in the document.

Amendment A & Response for SN 09/014,414

135. (Newly added) A method of inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

(a) providing one or more electronic documents whose contents are to be checked; and

(b) providing a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for said one or more electronic documents; and

(c) selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more documents; and

(d) checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively during step (c); and

(e) identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

136. (Newly added) The method of claim 135, wherein different language filters can be used for different electronic documents and different recipient groups.

137. (Newly added) The method of claim 135, wherein at least one of said language filters contains words whose common usage is considered offensive.

138.	(Newly added) A system for inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for one or more electronic documents; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i)	selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more documents; and

(ii)	checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively;

(iii)	identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

wherein said system can process electronic documents individually or as a batch.

139.	(Newly added) The system of claim 138, wherein different language filters can be used for different electronic documents and different recipient groups.

140.	(Newly added) The system of claim 139, wherein at least one of said language filters contains words whose common usage is considered offensive.

Remarks

Original claims 1 – 58, 60 – 63, 66 – 82 and newly added claims 83 - 140 are pending in the present application. Claims 59, 64 and 65 are canceled.

All of the original independent claims have been amended to better clarify and define the scope of the present invention. A detailed response to the objections and rejections raised by the Examiner follows, on a paragraph by paragraph basis to facilitate such review.